

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 14359 140129Z

64/45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 ACDA-19 IO-13 SS-15 PM-07 NSC-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 089040

P 131156Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6548

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14359

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A 3)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: PRESS STATEMENT FOR 18TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF: A. BANGKOK 14039 B. STATE 179701

1. COUNCIL REPS AT SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING EXCHANGED VIEWS ON DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT SUBMITTED REFTEL A. US COUNCIL REP MADE POINTS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL B. SINCE THERE WAS GENERAL DISSATISFACTION WITH DRAFT, COUNCIL REPS ORDERED PWG BACK BO DRAWING BOARD TO PRODUCE REVISED DRAFT. ALTHOUGH PWG MET ALL AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 11 AND DID PRODUCE NEW DRAFT, NO MEMBERS WERE SATISFIED WITH IT.

2. WHILE WE PUSHED FOR MORE GENERALIZED AND SHORTER PRESS STATEMENT, THAIS DESIRED THAT SPECIFICS BE INCLUDED. ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH ARISES IS THAT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WISH TO MAKE SPECIFIC MENTION OF CESSATION ACTIVE MILITARY PLANNING (FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION). WHILE THAIS WOULD PREFER NOT TO STATE THIS, THEY INSIST THAT IF SUCH MENTION IS MADE THERE MUST BE LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR RESUMPTION, I.E., "UNTIL MEMBEF GOVERNMENTS DIRECT OTHERWISE". BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PWG MEMBERS HAVE STATED THAT THEY FEEL QUITE CERTAIN THAT IF NO REFERENCE TO SUSPECION OF MILITARY PLANNING IS CONTAINEDIN PRESS STATEMENT, THEIR GOVERNMENTS WILL ANNOUNCE SAME IN CAMBERRA AND WELLINGTON SUBSEQUENT TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 14359 140129Z

MEETING; IN FACT, THEY MIGHT FEEL OBLIGED TO DO THIS IN EFFECT IN

NEW YORK IF QUESTIONS ASKED. WE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A NATIONAL DECISION WHICH, OF COURSE, THEY WERE FREE TO TAKE; HOWEVER, WE STRONGLY PREFER THAT NO MENTION AT ALL OF MILITARY PLANNING BE CONTAINED IN THE PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED IN NYC. PHILIPPINES ALSO FAVOR NO MENTION OF THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT BASED ON MISGIVINGS RE INFORMING "OTHER SIDE" THAT SEATO PLANNING HAS CEASED.

3. INASMUCH AS PWG WILL HAVE TO TACKLE PROBLEM OF PRESS STATEMENT AGAIN AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 24 MEETING IN NYC, FOLLOWING IS DRAFT WE PROPOSE TRY SELL AT THAT MEETING, MEANWHILE TRYING OUT TEXT INFORMALLY AND WITHOUT COMMITMENT ON OTHER DELEGATIONS:

QUOTE: COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION FROM AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES HELD THEIR 18TH ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK TODAY.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, SEATO SECGEN H.E. SUNTHORN HONGLADAROM ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNCIL UPHELD THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MANILA PACT AND ITS BASIC PURPOSE OF PEACE IN SEA. THEY DISCUSSED AND AGREED ON MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT SEATO'S FUTURE ACTIVITIES ARE RELEVANT TO THE SITUATION IN THE TREATY AREA BROUGHT ABOUT BY RECENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, NOTABLY THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS A PEACEFUL AND VIABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE INDOCHINA CONFLICT.

IN THE LIGHT OF MAJOR CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING, THE COUNCIL AGREED TO A REDUCTION OF SEATO'S TRADITIONAL MILITARY ACTIVITIES, WITH INCREASED EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE TWO REGIONAL MEMBERS, THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND, IN PROMOTING STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE COUNCIL ALSO AGREED WITH THE SECGEN'S PROPOSAL CALLING FOR A COMPLETE INTEGRATION OF THE MILITARY INTO THE CIVILIAN STAFF AT SEATO HEADQUARTERS IN BANGKOK WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE ORGANIZATION'S INCREASED FOCUS ON COOPERATING IN THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT MEASURES OF THE REGIONAL MEMBERS.

COUNCIL MEMBERS BELIEVED THAT THESE CHANGES WOULD RESULT IN SEATO'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 14359 140129Z

ACTIVITIES BEING MORE RELEVANT TO THE SITUATION IN THE TREATY AREA TODAY, NOTING THAT THE MANILA PACT CALLS FOR COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER NATIONS TO PROMOTE PEACE, ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING. END QUOTE.

4. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS REQUESTED. EMBASSY DID NOT INCLUDE REFERENCE TO SUPPORT IN AIDING RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT IN INDOCHINA SINCE IT BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER MEMBERS.

5. IF ABOVE PROPOSED TEXT IS ACCEPTABLE, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH
CONSIDER BRINGING IT TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE AUSTRALIAN AND
NEW ZEALAND EMBOFFS.
UNGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO14359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS UNGER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730938/aaaabbum.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BANGKOK 14039 B. STATE 179701
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEATO: PRESS STATEMENT FOR 18TH COUNCIL MEETING
TAGS: OCON, SEATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005